

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A linear luminous body comprising:

a light source;

a light source accommodating portion in which the light source is accommodated; and

a light guide held by the light source accommodating portion so as to extend from the light source accommodating portion;

a linear core made of a member selected from the group consisting of a metal, an alloy and a synthetic fiber; and

a light-reflective layer on a side circumferential surface of said linear core,

wherein a light emitted from the light source is introduced into said light guide through an end surface of said light guide, and

wherein said side circumferential surface of said linear core is covered with the light guide.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous body according to Claim 1, wherein said light source comprises a light emitting diode ~~is provided with an LED.~~

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous body according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of light sources are provided at ends of said light guide, respectively, so that light emitted by the plurality of light sources is introduced into said light guide through respective end surfaces of said light guide.

Claim 4. (Canceled).

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous body according to Claim 1 ~~4~~, wherein said linear core comprises ~~has~~ a multi-core structure.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A linear luminous body comprising:

a light source;

a light source accommodating portion in which the light source is accommodated;

a light guide held by the light source accommodating portion so as to extend from the light source accommodating portion; and

a linear core made of a member selected from the group consisting of a metal, an alloy, and a synthetic fiber, so that a side circumferential surface of said linear core is covered with the light guide,

wherein a light emitted from the light source is introduced into said light guide through an end surface of said light guide ~~A linear luminous body according to Claim 4, and~~

wherein said light source comprises ~~is provided with~~ a plurality of light emitting diodes ~~LEDs~~ which are disposed so that a distance between each light emitting diode ~~LED~~ and a center axis of said linear core is substantially equalized while a distance between two adjacent light emitting diodes ~~LEDs~~ is substantially equalized with respect to said plurality of light emitting diodes ~~LEDs~~.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A linear luminous body comprising:

a light source;

a light source accommodating portion in which the light source is accommodated;

a light guide held by the light source accommodating portion so as to extend from the

light source accommodating portion; and

a linear core made of a member selected from the group consisting of a metal, an alloy, and a synthetic fiber, so that a side circumferential surface of said linear core is covered with the light guide,

wherein a light emitted from the light source is introduced into said light guide through an end surface of said light guide,

wherein said linear core comprises a multi-core structure ~~A linear luminous body according to Claim 5, and~~

wherein said linear core is disposed so as to form a center axis of said linear luminous body.

Claim 8. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous body according to Claim 1 ~~8~~, wherein said light-reflective layer comprises ~~is made of~~ white paint.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous body according to Claim 1 ~~8~~, wherein said light-reflective layer comprises ~~is made of~~ a metal thin film.

Claims 11-12. (Canceled).

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous structure according to Claim 14 ~~12~~, wherein at least one of said plurality of light sources comprises a light emitting diode ~~an~~

LED is used as said light source.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A linear luminous structure comprising:

a plurality of light sources;

at least two light source accommodating portions in each of which at least one of the plurality light sources is accommodated; and

a plurality of light guides held by the light source accommodating portions so as to extend from the light source accommodating portions;

wherein a light emitted from the light sources is introduced into said light guides through at least one end surface of each light guide,

wherein the light guides are connected to one another through the at least two light source accommodating portion ~~A linear luminous structure according to Claim 12, and~~

wherein two of said light source accommodating portions are connected to opposite ends of one of said light guides to thereby introduce light into said light guide through said opposite ends of said light guide.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A linear luminous structure comprising:

a plurality of light sources;

at least two light source accommodating portions in each of which at least one of the plurality light sources is accommodated; and

a plurality of light guides held by the light source accommodating portions so as to extend from the light source accommodating portions;

wherein a light emitted from the light sources is introduced into said light guides

through at least one end surface of each light guide,

wherein the light guides are connected to one another through the at least one light source accommodating portion ~~A linear luminous structure according to claim 12,~~

wherein at least one connector comprises: ~~each of which includes~~

at least two connection portions for holding ~~holding~~ the light guides; and

a body portion that constitutes said light source accommodating portion in which at least one of the light sources corresponding to a number of said connection portions are accommodated, and

wherein ~~whereby~~ the connector connects at least two light guides to one another.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous structure according to Claim 15, wherein said connection portions of ~~one of~~ said at least one connector ~~connectors~~ are disposed at vectorial angles different from one another.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous structure according to Claim 15, wherein a pull-off prevention portion is provided at end portions of said connection portions ~~portion~~, and said pull-off prevention portion comprises: ~~includes~~

a stopper fixed to the body portion; and

a piston ring for holding said light guide, ~~and~~

wherein when said piston ring is pressed into said stopper, a diameter of said stopper is enlarged to thereby disengage said stopper from said light guide.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A linear luminous structure comprising:

a plurality of light sources;

at least two light source accommodating portions in each of which at least one of the plurality light sources is accommodated;

a plurality of light guides held by the light source accommodating portions so as to extend from the light source accommodating portions;

~~A linear luminous structure according to Claim 12, further comprising:~~

a plurality of connectors; and

at least one junction block having connector attachment surfaces,

wherein a light emitted from the light sources is introduced into said light guides through at least one end surface of each light guide,

wherein the light guides are connected to one another through the light source accommodating portions,

wherein each of the plurality of connectors is provided with one connection portion for holding the light guide and a body portion in which the light source is accommodated as the light source accommodating portion, and

wherein the connectors are fixed to the at least one junction joint block at the connector attachment surfaces, so that at least two light guides are connected to one another.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The A linear luminous structure according to Claim 18, wherein an engagement projection is provided on at least one of said plurality of connectors ~~the connector~~ and an attachment recess is provided on each of the connector attachment surfaces, and the engagement projection is inserted into the attachment recess so that the connector is fixed to the at least one junction joint block.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous structure according to Claim 19, wherein the engagement projection is formed across opposite side faces of the connector.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous structure according to Claim 19, wherein the attachment recess comprises ~~is formed as~~ a groove across opposite faces of the joint block.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous structure according to Claim 18, wherein the connector attachment surfaces are disposed at vectorial angles different from one another.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous structure according to Claim 18, wherein a pull-off prevention portion is provided at end portions of said connection portion, and said pull-off prevention portion comprises: ~~includes~~

a stopper fixed to the body portion; and

a piston ring for holding said light guide; and

wherein when said piston ring is pressed into said stopper, said piston ring is engaged with said stopper to thereby disengage said stopper from said light guide.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ linear luminous structure according to Claim 18, further comprising wherein a plurality of junction ~~the joint~~ blocks that are connected to one another by a coupling member.

Claim 25. (New) The body of claim 1, wherein said metal comprises at least one of iron, copper, silver, stainless steel, and brass.

Claim 26. (New) The body of claim 1, wherein said synthetic fiber comprises at least one of nylon, vinylon, polyethylene, polypropylene, aromatic polyamide fiber, aramid fiber, and carbon fiber.

Claim 27. (New) The body of claim 1, wherein said linear core comprises a rope structure.